21st December 1954]

Madras Regional Board of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

* 500 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) who the members of the *ad hoc* Madras Regional Board of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation are;

(*b*) what the schemes of the Board are; and

(*c*) the names of the districts in the State in which the schemes are to be introduced?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) A list[a] of the members of the Regional Board is placed on the table.

" (*b*) The Regional Board is only an advisory body set up under the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations, 1950. It has no special schemes of its own, but will render advice on matters placed before it relating to Empoyees' State Insurance Schemes for the region.

" (*c*) The medical benefit scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Act is proposed to be introduced shortly in the Coimbatore town and its suburbs in the first instance. It will be extended to other important industrial centres like Madras and Madurai in due course."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The scheme was first adopted by the Central Government, I think, in 1948. Last year the then Labour Minister of Madras promised that the scheme would be put into effect as early as possible. Even now the Hon. Labour Minister says that the Government will implement the scheme soon. May I request him to put the scheme into effect very soon and to include Malabar in the scheme?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Ever since I took up this portfolio, I have been trying to introduce the scheme as early as possible in Coimbatore which has been chosen as the first venue. But so many preliminary things have to be attended to. The scheme will be inaugurated in Coimbatore on 26th January 1955. Then we will take up Madras and Madurai. Perhaps Malabar may come after that."

State Handloom Committee.

* 506 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of members of the Handloom Board; and

(*b*) how the Handloom Board functions?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 673–674 infra.